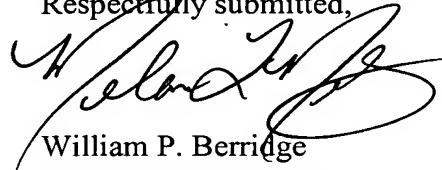


**REMARKS**

Claims 1-35 are pending. This Preliminary Amendment conforms the specification to the Sequence Listing filed November 21, 2003, and corrects minor informalities in the specification. Prompt and favorable examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge  
Registration No. 30,024

Melanie L. Mealy  
Registration No. 40,085

WPB:MLM/jam

Date: January 12, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

|  |
|--|
| <p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE<br/>AUTHORIZATION<br/>Please grant any extension<br/>necessary for entry;<br/>Charge any fee due to our<br/>Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p> |
|--|